# **TEENAGE DRIVERS (15-19 years)**

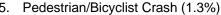
#### Did you know that in 2002...

- Teenage drivers represent 7.9% of the licensed drivers in Utah, yet they were involved in approximately one-fourth (28.7%) of all motor vehicle crashes in Utah.
- Approximately 1 out of 5 (20.3%) fatal crashes in Utah involved a teenage driver.

#### Leading Collision Descriptions of Teenage Driver Crashes, Utah 2002

#### All Teenage Driver Crashes

- Rear End (34.3%)
- Broadside (28.2%)
- 3. Side Swipe (6.1%)
- Single Vehicle Rollover (4.6%)

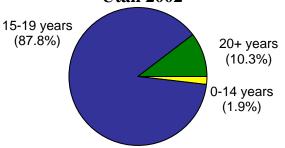




#### **Fatal Teenage Driver Crashes**

- Single Vehicle Rollover (42.9%)
- Broadside (17.9%)
- Side Swipe (10.7%)
- Head-On (8.9%)
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist Crash (3.6%)
- Head-on crashes were over 13 times more likely to result in at least one fatality than other collision types.
- Single vehicle rollovers were 14 times more likely to result in at least one fatality than other collision types.
- Over half (62.5%) of all teenage driver crashes were rear end or broadside collisions.
- Single vehicle rollovers and head-on collisions represented 51.8% of the fatal teenage driver crashes.
- Of the 56 fatal teenage driver crashes, 10 involved a teen driver impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

### Age of Crash Occupants (Including **Driver**) in a Teenage Driven Vehicle, **Utah 2002**



Not surprisingly, most occupants of vehicles driven by teenage drivers that were involved in a crash were between the ages of 15 to 19 years (87.8%).

#### Occupants and Fatal Crashes, **Utah 2002**



Crashes where the teenage driven vehicle contained four or more occupants were 5 times more likely to be fatal than crashes involving teenage driven vehicles with fewer occupants.

## Top 5 Driving Factors that Contributed to Teenage Driver Crashes, Utah 2002

#### All Teenage Driver Crashes

- Improper Lookout (24.6%)
- Failed to Yield Right of Way (14.2%)
- Following Too Closely (12.8%)
- Speed Too Fast (11.2%)
- Other Improper Driving (8.7%)



#### **Fatal Teenage Driver Crashes**

- Improper Lookout (23.3%)
- Failed to Yield Right of Way (16.3%)
- Following too Closely (14.0%)
- Speed Too Fast (11.6%)
- Had Been Drinking, Under the Influence of Drugs, DUI (4.6%)
- Improper Lookout (23.3%) accounted for nearly one-quarter of the factors associated with fatal teenage driver crashes.
- "Had been drinking," and "DUI" accounted for 3.1% of the teenage driver total crashes.

## 

Teenage driver crashes peaked during after school hours (2:00 pm to 6:00 pm). Another peak occurred when these drivers were most likely going to school at 7:00 am.

#### **Counties with the Highest Percentage of Crashes Involving Teenage**

County	All Crashes	Teenage Drivers	% Involving Teen Drivers	County	All Crashes	Teenage Drivers	% Involving Teen Drivers
Davis	4,510	1,607	35.6%	Cache	2,215	718	32.4%
Rich	74	26	35.1%	Weber	4,949	1,567	31.7%
Sanpete	373	129	34.6%	Utah	7,464	2,361	31.65%
Washington	1,862	634	34.0%	Statewide	53,370	15,307	28.7%

#### **Graduated Driver Licensing Law**

A graduated driver licensing law was enacted to address the concern of teenage driving and crashes. Graduated licensing regulations are in place for new drivers under the age of 18 years. First-time teenage drivers who apply for a drivers license in Utah must complete the following three steps to obtain a license:

- **Step 1.** Obtain an instruction permit, which allows driving with a certified driving instructor, complete a driver education course and pass a written exam.
- **Step 2.** Complete 30 hours of behind-the-wheel driving (at least 10 hours after dark) with a parent, guardian, or licensed over-21-year-old spouse.
- **Step 3.** Complete a driving test (or tests) and obtain a provisional (under 21 years) "D" (passenger vehicle), or "M" (passenger vehicle plus motorcycle) license. The provisional license shows "under 21," has a distinctive color, and allows a lower threshold of points/citations before sanctioning compared to regular licenses.

#### **Night-time Restrictions**

Anyone under the age of 17 years may not drive from midnight to 5:00 am except: 1) with an over-21-year old licensed driver; 2) for employment, or going to or from employment; 3) going to or from a religious or a school activity; 4) in a supervised agricultural operation; or 5) in an emergency.

#### **Passenger Restrictions**

For the first six months of licensure, teenage drivers can only drive other teens if there is an over-21-year-old driver in the front seat of the vehicle. Teenage drivers can drive themselves or family members without this restriction.

Exceptions: Teenage drivers can drive teenage occupants to or from school, school activities, church activities, or agricultural work if he/she has a signed note from his/her parent or guardian.

#### **Seatbelt Restrictions**

All occupants under the age of 19 years must be properly restrained in a motor vehicle. This is a primary law which means a person may be stopped by a law enforcement officer solely for that offense. If found in violation of this law, a